

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 17, 2003, was carefully reviewed. It is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider the present application in light of the remarks herein.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,580,916 B1 to *Weisshaar*, et al., hereinafter *Weisshaar*.

Independent claim 1 of the present invention requires "a gateway device 22 mounted on said vehicle whereby said gateway device 22 receives said coded signal from said long-range wireless communication device, translates said coded signal to said first predefined protocol and communicates said translated signal to said short-range receiver." Amended independent claim 10 now requires "translating said long-range command into a second predefined protocol *at a gateway device mounted on the vehicle*" and "*said gateway device* transmitting said translated long-range command to a short-range wireless receiver."

According to the present invention, a simple interface is provided with an existing short-range system through the use of a gateway. The gateway does not place any new restrictions on the existing short-range system. Therefore, the present invention is portable and cost effective. The portability has the advantage of being easily removed from one vehicle and being installed in another, thereby making it useful to fleet and service vehicles.

According to the present invention, the gateway device is mounted on the vehicle and requires only power and ground connections. It expands the range of the vehicle's remote keyless entry functions without having to tap into the vehicle's electrical system.

In the *Weisshaar* reference, the user node 108 that is described at column 5, lines 1-10, is the short-range receiver. Additionally, in *Weisshaar*, the translation of the long-range transmission is accomplished at the local node 106, which is remote from the vehicle. According to the present invention, the short-range receiver is already on the vehicle, and in order to give the vehicle long-range

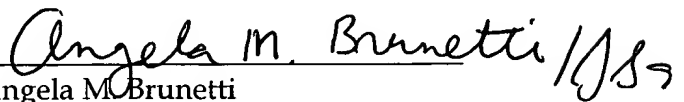
capabilities, the gateway device is also mounted to the vehicle in order to facilitate communication between the long-range device and the short-range receiver.

Weisshaar does not teach or disclose a gateway device mounted on the vehicle as claimed by the Applicants of the present invention. The vehicle mounted gateway device of the present invention controls the short-range transmitter based on instructions the gateway device receives from the long-range transmitter. The gateway device translates those instructions and then transmits the translated instructions to the short-range transmitter. The *Weisshaar* local node 106 is not a simple, low cost addition to add range expansion to a remote keyless entry system. The interface between the short-range receiver and any remotely located user nodes require major infrastructure additions to the vehicle that require design considerations and must be installed during vehicle assembly. The *Weisshaar* interface design cannot simply be added after the vehicle is fully assembled.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions that may place the claims into better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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